Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C00908166

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SOURCE: STATE
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DOR: **19840211**
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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
RUEOEHA/ USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS PN IMMEDIATE 0000
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RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE - 0000
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIAE 0000
RUEHGR/AMEMBASSY GRENADA IMMEDIATE 0000
RUCBSAA/USCINCLANT NOFOLK IMMEDIATE
RUWTFTA/COMSFOARIB KEY WEST IMMEDIATE
RUDKPNQ/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 0000
RUFHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDITE 0000
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RUESUA/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEIDATE 0000
RUEHAO/AMCONSUL CURACAO IMMEDIATE 0000
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RULPHNW/CDR 193D INFBDE FT CLAYTON
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INFO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC
XMT AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OFSPAIN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
BT
EZ1:

CONTROLS
SR2

\UNCLAS STATE 041731\
EZ2:

TEXT
SR3

ALL POSTS PASS PAOS
E.O. 12356: N/A

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Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C00908166

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TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: ARA NEWS ITEMS OF FEBRUARY 10, 1984

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2. PRESS SUMMMARY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1984

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Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C00908166

Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C00908166

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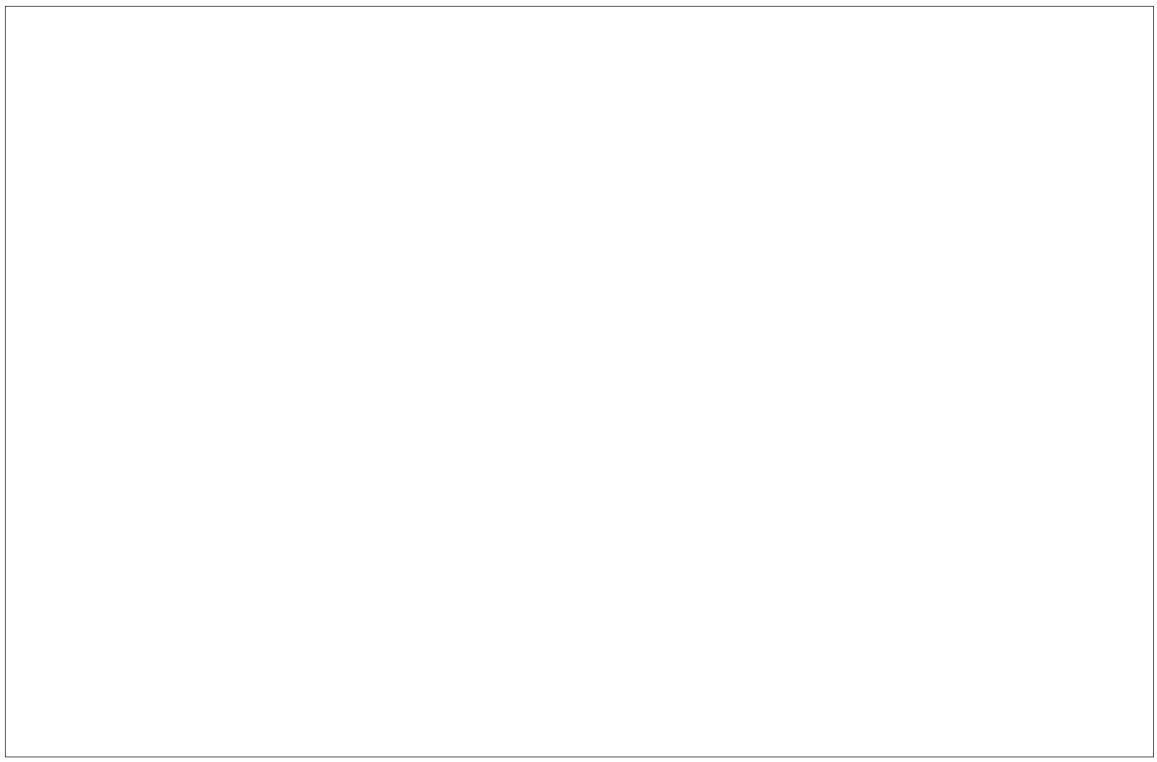

ARGENTINA: RICHARD O'MARA, SUN FOREIGN EDITOR, PAGE 5 FROM B.A. ("ALFONSIN SETS OUT TO CHALLENGE UNIONS") SAYS NEW PRESIDENT RAUL ALFONSIN "WILL FACE HIS FIRST SERIOUS CHALLENGE TODAY, AS THE MINIONS OF LABOR ASSEMBLE AT THE NATIONAL CONGRESS TO PROTEST NEW LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REORGANIZE THE UNIONS THAT FOR SO MANY DECADES HAVE HELD SWAY OVER ARGENTINA'S POLITICAL LIFE." A THOUSAND FACTORY WORKERS WENT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE TUESDAY TO DEMAND A 70 PERCENT PAY RAISE. JANUARY'S COST OF LIVING RAISE, ANNOUNCED MONDAY, WAS 12.5 PERCENT. THE GOVERNMENT AGREED TO AN EMERGENCY PAY RAISE OF ABOUT $4 A MONTH, BUT "THE MEASURE IS NOT LIKELY TO CALM THE INCIPIENT UNREST," SAYS O'MARA. "THE UNIONS ARE THE 'OTHER ARMY' OF ARGENTINA, A BIGGER DRAGON FOR MR. ALFONSIN TO SLAY...THEY WERE FORGED AS POLITICAL INSTRUMENTS BY JUAN PERON IN THE LATE 1940S. THROUGH THE YEARS THEY HAVE EITHER SHARED OR DISPUTED POWER WITH THE MILITARY. NOW, ARGENTINA IS RULED BY A PRESIDENT FROM THE RADICAL PARTY WHO WILL TRY TO UNDERCUT THE POWER OF THE UNIONS BY MAKING THEM MORE DEMOCRATIC, MORE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR OWN MEMBERSHIP -- IN SHORT, LESS POLITICAL." THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE UNIONS AND THE NEW PRESIDEN T COULD NOT HAVE COME AT A MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TIME FOR ALFONSIN, SUGGESTS O'MARA. "UNION LEADERS ARE IN BAD ODOR," WIDELY THOUGHT OF AS, AT BEST, COLLABORATORS WITH THE DISCREDITED MILITARY REGIME AND, AT WORST, SIMPLE

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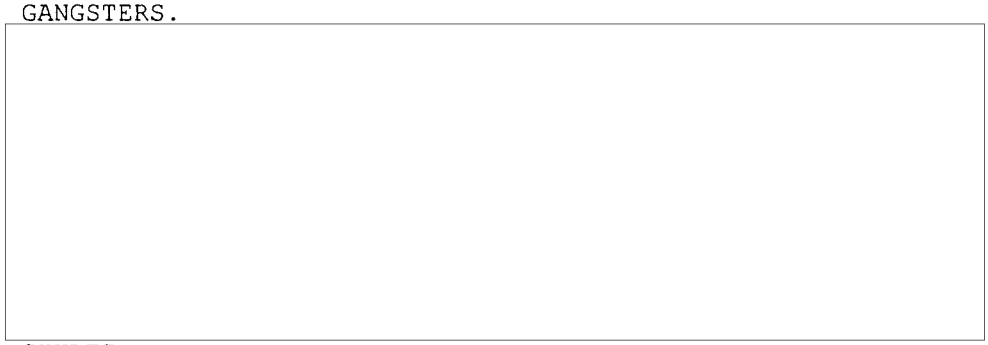
GANGSTERS.



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